



Boffa Miskell

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## News Item



# Boffa Miskell sponsors Project Kiwi Trust

28 April 2011

**Boffa Miskell is proud to announce its Gold Sponsorship of the Project Kiwi Trust in support of the Trust's inspirational efforts to reverse the serious continuing decline in kiwi populations.**

The wild kiwi population currently halves every decade. If left unmanaged, this decline would result in the swift extinction of one of New Zealand's iconic species. Fortunately, this decline is being addressed, by both the government and a number of caring and committed local communities and Boffa Miskell is pleased to contribute to the kiwi recovery effort.

Project Kiwi Trust was the first community based project in New Zealand to protect kiwi and is a flagship for kiwi conservation nationwide. The Trust began in 1996 as the then Kuaotunu Kiwi Sanctuary. Several keen locals and landowners banded together and embarked upon a programme of predator control with the aim of achieving a survival rate of 20% of the local kiwi chicks – the survival rate required to ensure a kiwi population is self-maintaining. Initially an Incorporated Society, the Trust became formally registered as Project Kiwi Trust in 2003.

Project Kiwi Trust has strived to protect and enhance the kiwi population on the Kuaotunu Peninsula, which is in the Coromandel, for fifteen years. To achieve this, different strategies of predator control have been employed over the years, and presently stoats, ferrets and weasel populations are being managed to reduce the threat they pose to kiwi. In addition, because the Trust has a holistic ecosystems approach to its work, possums, pigs and rat populations are also being managed. The combined predator control greatly benefits the local forests, birds and lizards as well as kiwi.

The Trust also invests in BNZ Operation Nest Egg, where kiwi eggs are taken from nests to be incubated, hatched and reared in captivity until they reach 850 g, at which time they are deemed more able to fend off attack from predators and are returned to the peninsula.



Project Kiwi

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Much of what we know nationally about the management of kiwi has been developed and refined by the Project Kiwi Trust, including predator and kiwi-dog work, trapping methods and kiwi tracking. New initiatives are currently being discussed with the Kiwi Recovery Group, administered by the Department of Conservation, to ensure that components of the national kiwi recovery plan continue to be advanced.

Boffa Miskell ecologist and director, Dave Slaven has been visiting the Kautunu Peninsula for over 30 years. He is a Trust patron and volunteers on the Trust's predator control programme and says it's been inspiring to see the positive results over that time.

**Find out more:** <http://www.projectkiwi.org.nz/>

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